

# Fire Onboard: How to be Prepared



**Fires that occur on boats or in marinas can spread quickly and present unique response challenges due to hazardous conditions and limited access.**

Generally, the best defense against fire is prevention. Follow these tips to help you stay fire safe onboard and in the marina.

## On the boat:

- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to alert occupants to a fire.
- Have a fire emergency plan and practice it.
- Inspect electrical wiring, connections, cords and battery-charging equipment to ensure they are installed properly and in good condition.
- Have the appropriate fire extinguishers and make sure they are easily accessible. Train all boaters on how to use them.
- Check your cooling and exhaust systems. Make sure they work properly.
- Turn off portable heaters when you leave the boat or go to sleep.
- Only use certified chargers for personal electronic devices. Don't overload power outlets.

## In the marina:

- Ask about the types of fire and emergency features at the marina; including smoke alarms and fire-suppression equipment.
- Know where the fire extinguishers are located and how to escape.
- Smoke only in designated areas away from any fuel-filling or storage areas.
- Inspect shore power connections for any obvious signs of damage or improper installations.
- Know how to contact help.



## If a fire does occur:

- Alert boat occupants and quickly get to a safe location.
- Discharge fire extinguishers from a safe location, or get to a safe location and contact the fire department.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit  
**[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**

